

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 through 8 (canceled)

1 9. (New) An intimately premixed synthetic binding agent
2 for producing powder paints, which consists essentially of:
3 a synthetic resin; and
4 a pyrogenic oxide of silicon, aluminum, titanium, or
5 mixtures thereof, said pyrogenic oxide having a particle size
6 between 5 and 65 nm.

1 10. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding agent
2 defined in claim 9, wherein the pyrogenic oxide is pyrogenic
3 silicic acid.

1 11. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the pyrogenic oxide is surface
3 treated with an organosilicon compound to chemically convert
4 hydroxy groups on the surface of the pyrogenic oxide to hydrophobic
5 groups.

1 12. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding agent
2 defined in claim 9 wherein the primary particle size of the
3 pyrogenic oxide is between 7 and 40 nm.

1 13. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 9 wherein the pyrogenic oxide is contained
3 therein in an amount of 0.05 to 10% with respect to the weight of
4 the synthetic resin.

1 14. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 9 wherein the pyrogenic oxide is contained
3 therein in an amount of 0.25 to 2.5% with respect to the weight of
4 the synthetic resin.

1 15. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a
3 polyester resin or a poly(meth)acrylate resin.

1 16. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a
3 polyester resin.

1 17. (New) An intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent for producing powder paints, which consists essentially of:
3 a synthetic polyester resin; and
4 a pyrogenic silicic acid having a particle size between 7
5 and 10 nm, wherein the pyrogenic silicic acid is contained therein
6 in an amount of 1% with respect to the amount of the synthetic
7 resin.

1 18. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 17 wherein the synthetic polyester resin
3 consists essentially of 2,2-dimethylpropanediol-2,3, ethylene
4 glycol, and terephthalic acid.

1 19. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding
2 agent defined in claim 17 wherein the pyrogenic silicic acid is
3 surface treated with an organosilicon compound to chemically
4 convert hydroxy groups on the surface of the pyrogenic oxide to
5 hydrophobic groups.

1 20. (New) A powder paint which comprises the
2 intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for producing powder
3 paints defined in claim 9 and a hardener for powder paints .

1 21. (New) A powder paint which consists essentially of
2 (a) the intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for
3 producing powder paints defined in claim 9;
4 (b) a hardener for powder paints; and
5 (c) a pigment.

1 22. (New) The powder paint defined in claim 21 which
2 includes a filler.

1 23. (New) A powder paint which comprises the intimately
2 premixed synthetic binding agent for producing powder paints
3 defined in claim 17 and a β -hydroxyalkylamide hardener for powder
4 paints.

1 24. (New) A powder paint which consists essentially of
2 (a) the intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for
3 producing powder paints defined in claim 17;
4 (b) a β -hydroxyalkylamide hardener for powder paints; and
5 (c) a pigment.

1 25. (New) The powder paint defined in claim 24 which
2 includes a filler.

1 26. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 20.

1 27. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 21.

1 28. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 22.

1 29. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 23.

1 30. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 24.

1 31. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder
2 paint according to claim 25.